

City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686*



DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2023

6:00 PM

Regular Meeting (Note date change due to holiday)

City Council Chambers

Beautification Commission

REGULAR AGENDA - 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present 4 - Chair Kathy Nielsen
Commission Member Jennifer Benda
Commission Member Keena Miller
Commission Member Sara Irwin Goudreau
Excused 2 - Commission Member Meg Weaver
Commission Member Magdalena McCay

III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

MOTION: Irwin Goudreau moved, seconded by Miller to elect Commissioner Kathy Nielsen as Chair.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ELECT CHAIR

Yays: 4 - Nielsen, Benda, Miller and Irwin Goudreau

Absent: 1 - McCay and Weaver

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: Irwin Goudreau moved, seconded by Miller to elect Commissioner Jenny Benda as Chair Pro Tempore

VOTE ON MOTION TO ELECT CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

Yays: 4 - Nielsen, Benda, Miller and Irwin Goudreau

Absent: 1 - McCay and Weaver

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No Public Business from the Floor was presented.

V. REPORTS

1. **Report: Memorial Bench Policy Director Ken Wilson and Recreation Coordinator Grace Walker**

Commissioner McCay joined the meeting telephonically.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Ken Wilson and Recreation Coordinator Grace Walker presented to the commission on the memorial bench policy drafted by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services leadership.

Commission discussion included the following:

- Authority of the city related to placement of monuments or art on private property and times when the Planning and Zoning commission would need to be involved.
- Questions about how best to honor individuals that places were named after by providing historical context as to why existing names had been given.
- Broad nature of the policy and potential need for additional detail.
- Request to clarify that service need not be to “nation, state and city”, but rather, “nation state or city.”
- Concerns about lack of clarity on issues of ownership and maintenance for future monuments and public art.
- Appreciation that a policy was being developed and could provide a starting point for future discussions.
- Need for the Beautification Commission to assist with honing future standards for monument placement.
- Questions related to how “broad public support” would be measured.

2. Report: Beautification Matching Grant Program Update

Commission Staff Liaison Elise Sorum-Birk provided the commission with an update on the Beautification Matching Grant Program.

The commission agreed to scheduling an application review session for the coming year in lieu of the December Regular Meeting.

Questions were asked about outreach and communication with participating businesses.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Deferral of 2023 Beautification Matching Grant to Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 1971

MOTION: Miller moved, seconded by Benda, to approve deferral of the 2023 Beautification Matching Grant to the Fraternal Order of the Eagles.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 5 - Nielsen, Benda, Miller, McCay, and Irwin Goudreau

Absent: 1 - Commission Member Weaver

MOTION CARRIED.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Irwin Goudreau asked about the commissions' involvement in the review process for matching grant applications.

Chair Nielsen suggested the development of a clearer criteria for deferral of grant awards.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.